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BOOK REVIEWS.

FINITE AND INFINITE, by Thomas Curran Ryan, of the Wisconsin Bar. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia: 1905. 351 pp. \$1.50, net.

It would seem more appropriate that such a work should have been written by a clergyman. The author states that his life has been devoted to the legal profession, but it is evident that the book comes from the pen of a student of both theology and philosophy. But it is not to be denied that legal training may fit one to no little extent for such a task to which the author devoted himself and, as he himself says, "A voice from the bar will, with God's help, have force, and perhaps more force, in a way, than one coming from the pulpit." The author's effort has been to show that the universe is finite. No argument is made in support of the belief that God exists; but incidentally this subject is touched upon. Such an argument he is to present in another book. The author says that he distinctly sees today, and has been seeing more and more distinctly for many years, the great danger with which Idealism threatens Christianity, the danger that, while pretending to lead us to God, it leads us to nothing—giving us stones when we have asked for bread. He says he has waited for the voice of some Christian teacher to warn against this danger and that he has waited in vain, watching many of them fall into the ditch,—blind Christians led by blind Idealism.

The book will not only interest clergymen and lawyers, but the intelligent reading public as well.

JAS. THOMAS BAILEY.

AN ESSAY on the Principles of Circumstantial Evidence, illustrated by numerous cases by the late William Wills, Esq., Justice of Peace. Edited by his son, Sir Alfred Wills, Knt., one of His Majesty's Judges of the High Court of Justice. Fifth English Edition (1902). With American Notes by George E. Beers, of the New Haven Bar; and Arthur L. Corbin, of the Faculty of the Yale Law School. The Boston Book Company, Boston: 1905.

This edition contains a well-known English work, to which are added copious American notes. The original edition appeared in 1838 and the work has now gone through its fifth edition. It contains a remarkable collection of most interesting and sometimes startling instances of the potency of circumstantial evidence. Most law books are consulted only for the purpose of ascertaining the law on some particular point, and when this object is attained the book is thrust aside. Few law books are so interesting as to induce the lawyer to read them except for practical purposes, but Wills on Circumstantial Evidence reads like a novel and the lawyer who takes it up will not only have his attention attracted and held, but will find many interesting incidents which will be of immense value to him in practice.